

From: Joe Allred
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/16/01 11:00am
Subject: Strongly Disagree with Settlement

I strongly disagree with the action of the Justice Department in settling the anti-trust case with Microsoft. The settlement is inadequate; the company will be able to bypass many of the sanctions because of vague language (refer to Associated Press article by Ted Bridis).

I feel that Microsoft might use the exemption to keep secret any information that might violate the security of anti-piracy technology to hide details about many of its products. Any criminal penalties and civil fines that the Department of Justice might seek if the company violates the 3deal² will be too weak and ineffective given the size and monetary resources of Microsoft. I can only hope that U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly will impose tougher penalties during hearings in February. Perhaps she will have the foresight of Judge Stanley Sporkin who scrapped a Microsoft settlement in the 1995 case. Like him, I strongly believe that the proposed settlement is not in the public interest.

In the 1995 settlement the Justice Department promised that it would "end Microsoft's unlawful practices that restrain trade and perpetuate its monopoly power." Microsoft to this date has not backed down from its arrogant and deceitful practices. I believe that the Justice Department is simply telling Microsoft to 3go forth and sin no more.² This does little or nothing to address the unfair advantage it has already gained and continues to exert.

Microsoft is the schoolyard bully that will not be persuaded by moral arguments, but must be sent to reform school before a calm learning environment can be restored. The penalty in this case must not only suit the crime, but must be in direct proportion to the size and stature of the offender. A slap on the wrist is not suitable.

Please do not settle with Microsoft.

Joe Allred

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